

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	18/02/2014
Inspector	Jennie Christopher
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	11/09/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is a resource centre for children with disabilities and their families and is owned and managed by the local district council. One of the services offered at the centre is residential short break care for children with a disability. It is this aspect of the centre's activity that is regulated under the Children's Homes Regulations 2001. The centre is registered for five young people aged between eight and 17 years who have a learning and/or physical disability; many of the children also present challenging behaviour. Other services offered include day care, after school care, outreach services and a domiciliary care service registered with the Care Quality Commission.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

Good progress	The children's home has demonstrated continued improvement in quality of care and outcomes for children and young people and where appropriate has addressed all requirements and the large majority of recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection.
Satisfactory progress	The children's home has maintained quality of care and outcomes for children and young people and where appropriate has addressed all requirements and the majority of recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection.
Inadequate progress	The children's home has failed to address one or more requirements and/or has not met the majority of recommendations and/or the quality of care and outcomes for children and young people have declined since the last full inspection.

Progress

Since their previous inspection the service is judged to be making **good progress**.

At the last full inspection in September 2013, the overall quality rating for the service was judged as outstanding with one recommendation made. The service has maintained an excellent quality of care for young people while continuing to seek ways in which to develop the service for the future. A particular strength of the service is the consistency of support for young people in all aspects of their care packages.

At the last inspection the recommendation set was to give consideration to constraints during offsite activities due to care packages and the homes rota pattern. The Registered Manager has given great thought to the issue, considering many options to improve the time spent on activity. Young people are being consulted in

their views on the quality of activities and time spent on the mini bus to reach them. In conjunction, staff and parents are sharing their views on timings of stays and potential changes to working patterns to facilitate longer trips. While this remains a work in progress, practical steps have already been taken, such as providing activities for young people while travelling on mini bus, including DVD's and I Spy books; planning off site activities to ensure they are within reasonable traveling distance and recording young people's views on the activity and travelling time.

Since the last inspection, work has continued to evaluate the service and to identify areas for development in the coming year. As a result, records within the three resources provided by the service have been streamlined, including information gained from parents to form young people's individual plans. This has resulted in greater efficiency in gathering information to be used across all resources the services provided. Further this ensures all staff have the most up to date plans to care for young people in addition to parents not needing to repeat information. The consolidation of the three resources further benefits young people through consistency of staff supporting them in all aspects of their care package. The manager is proactive in ensuring the service is compliant with recent and upcoming changes to regulations. Policies and procedures have been amended as appropriate to reflect changes. Reports produced in relation to independent monitoring visits and monitoring by managers demonstrates an excellent level of evaluation and consultation. Again these procedures are being updated in line with changes in regulations.

Young people continue to receive extremely well planned care from a committed and experienced staff team. Observed interactions demonstrate staff relationships with young people are excellent and that young people feel safe when accessing the service. Staff communicate effectively with young people and are tuned into individual communication styles. Staff have clear and consistent boundaries, which have enabled young people to learn to positively manage their behaviour. High staffing ratios ensure young people enjoy the support and attention they require to access activities at the service and in the community. The culture and ethos within the service celebrates individuality, ensuring all young people achieve to the best of their abilities and experiencing enjoyable visits.

About this inspection

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service and to consider how well it complies with the relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the progress made by the provider since the last full inspection, identifies any further strengths, any areas for improvement and makes judgements as outlined in the *Inspection of children's homes – framework for inspection*.